

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 2, 2005, claims 1-10 were pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all 10 pending claims. No claims have been added or cancelled from the pending application; though claims 1 and 6 have been amended.

The following remarks will follow the order set forth in the Office Action.

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,113,188 to Stewart et al. The Examiner has argued that Stewart et al. teaches all of the components set forth in independent claims 1 and 6.

Applicant acknowledges that Figure 2 of the '188 Patent shows an inflatable bladder, which, viewed two-dimensionally from the side, outlines a trapezoid shape. However, as noted in Applicant's response to the Examiner's first office action:

"The trapezoidal-shape of the tubular bladder, depicted in Figure 2 of Stewart et al., is not the result of the inherent shape of the bladder, but is a result of forces asserted on the bladder by the side scissor-braces forcing the seat into a tilted position."

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to clarify the meaning of the term "trapezoid shaped" as it pertains to the side panels. Specifically, Applicant has amended the claims to include the limitation that the trapezoid shape is innate to the side panels. The term

innate means “possessed as an essential characteristic; inherent¹.” The antonyms of “innate” are “acquired, extrinsic, learned.”

As indicated in Applicant’s response to the first office action, but now explicitly claimed, the side panels of Applicant’s device are innately trapezoid shaped. This is in direct contrast to Stewart, wherein the trapezoid shape of the inflatable bladder is a direct product of outside forces, namely the side scissor braces, acting on an otherwise, (viewed two-dimensionally) rectangular bladder. As noted in Stewart, “the tilt is introduced by the off-center intersection of the brace members of the two-side scissor-braces (20) as shown in Fig. 2.” See column 3, lines 62-64.

The claimed structural limitation of trapezoid shape being an innate characteristic is, therefore, not taught by Stewart. The innate shape affords superior benefits over the device shown in Stewart, including reduced complexity, fewer components and reduced weight.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 in a manner that it believes renders them allowable. Therefore Applicant believes dependant claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 should be allowable as well.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,264,279B1 to Chow. Claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 depend from and further teach the invention of independent claims 1 and 6, which Applicant believes are allowable over the cited reference of Stewart et al. Accordingly,

¹ [Answers.com](http://www.answers.com). Home Page. Dictionary Definition, 16 Jan. 2006 <<http://www.answers.com>>

Applicant believes that claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 should be allowable as having narrowing limitations over allowable claims 1 and 6.

CONCLUSION

Applicant now believes that this amendment complies with 37 CFR § 1.121 and thus requests examination of this Amendment. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

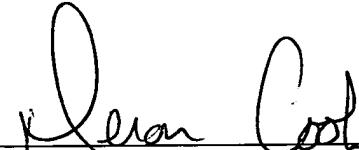
Respectfully submitted,

BROUSE McDOWELL

Date

1/20/2006

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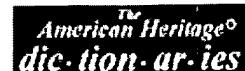
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innate

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innate

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in·nate (i-nāt', īnāt')

adj.

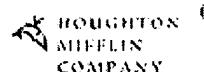
1. Possessed at birth; inborn.
2. Possessed as an essential characteristic; inherent.
3. Of or produced by the mind rather than learned through experience: *an innate knowledge of right and wrong*.

[Middle English innat, from Latin *innatus*, past participle of *innascī*, to be born in : in-, in; see *in-*² + *nāscī*, to be born.]in·nate^{ly} *adv.*
in·nate^{ness} *n.*

SYNONYMS *innate, inborn, inbred, congenital, hereditary.* These adjectives mean existing in a person or thing from birth or origin. Something that is *innate* seems essential to the nature, character, or constitution: *innate common sense*. *Inborn* strongly implies that something has been present since birth: *inborn intelligence*. What is *inbred* has often been ingrained through earliest training or associations: *an inbred love of music*. *Congenital* is applied principally to characteristics, especially defects, acquired during fetal development: *a congenital disease*. It is also used figuratively of characteristics or people with characteristics that are so deep-seated as to appear natural: *a congenital pessimism; a congenital liar*. *Hereditary* refers to what is transmitted by biological heredity (*a hereditary heart anomaly*) or by tradition: “*that ignorance and superstitiousness hereditary to all sailors*” (Herman Melville).

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innate

adjective

1. Possessed at birth: *congenital, hereditary, inborn, inherited, native*. See *be, native/foreign*.
2. Forming an essential element, as arising from the basic structure of an individual: *built-in, congenital, connatural, constitutional, elemental, inborn, inbred, indigenous, indwelling, ingrained, inherent, intrinsic, native, natural*. See *be, native/foreign, start/end*.

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Antonyms**Answers.com**

innate
adj

Definition: inherited, native

Antonyms: acquired, extrinsic, learned

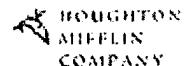
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Medical

in·nate (i-nāt', īnāt')
adj.

Possessed at birth; inborn.

in·nate'ness *n.*

WordNet

Note: click on a word meaning below to see its connections and related words.

The *adjective* innate has 3 meanings:

Meaning #1: not established by conditioning or learning

Synonyms: unconditioned, unlearned

Meaning #2: being talented through inherited qualities

Synonyms: natural, born

Meaning #3: present at birth but not necessarily hereditary; acquired during fetal development

Synonyms: congenital, inborn, inherent



Devil's Dictionary*A cynical view of the world by Ambrose Bierce*

innate
adj.

Natural, inherent -- as innate ideas, that is to say, ideas that we are born with, having had them previously imparted to us. The doctrine of innate ideas is one of the most admirable faiths of philosophy, being itself an innate idea and therefore inaccessible to disproof, though Locke foolishly supposed himself to have given it "a black eye." Among innate ideas may be mentioned the belief in one's ability to conduct a newspaper, in the greatness of one's country, in the superiority of one's civilization, in the importance of one's personal affairs and in the interesting nature of one's diseases.

Translations**Translations for: Innate**

Nederlands (Dutch)
aangeboren, inherent

Français (French)
inné, naturel

Deutsch (German)
adj. - angeboren

Ελληνική (Greek)
adj. ἐμφυτος, εγγενής, σύμφυτος

Italiano (Italian)
innato

Português (Portuguese)
adj. - inato

Русский (Russian)
врожденный

Español (Spanish)
adj. - innato

Svenska (Swedish)
adj. - medfödd, naturlig

中国话 (Simplified Chinese)
adj. - 先天的, 天生的

中國話 (Traditional Chinese)
adj. - 先天的, 天生的

日本語 (Japanese)
adj. - 生来の, 天賦の, 内在的, 生まれつきの

(Arabic) العربيه
 (صفه) فطري, غريزي, سليقي

(Hebrew) עברית
 adj. - טבוע בدمו, שמיידה, נבע מהמוח (רעיון)

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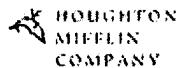
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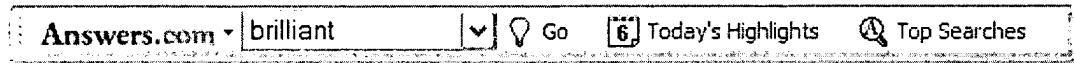


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